

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 250710Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9389

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, KU

SUBJ: ATIQUI DEFENDS PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. MINISTER FINANCE AND OIL ATIQUI BEGAN MAJOR DEFENSE FOR
GOK OF 60 PERCENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
APRIL 23. HE SUBMITTED FOURTEEN PAGE PAPER WHICH HE ALSO READ.
CITING BY NOW FAMILIAR THEMES ATIQUI RESTED ARGUMENT IN FAVOR
GOK-GULF/BP AGREEMENT PRIMARILY ON INABILITY KUWAITIS TO RUN
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KOC. HE SAID KUWAIT DID NOT HAVE EXPERTS NEEDED TO RUN INDUSTRY.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT PRESENT AGREEMENT GAVE GOK FULL CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM. ADMITTING THAT NATIONALIZATION WAS ONE ALTERNATIVE, ATIQUI SAID GOK CONSIDERED ALL POSSIBILITIES AND DECIDED NEGOTIATED PARTICIPATION SERVED NATION'S INTERESTS BEST.

2. IN APRIL 23 SESSION DEPUTIES DECLINED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT FURTHER UNTIL THEY HAD STUDIED ATIQUI'S PAPER MORE THOROUGHLY. PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WILL BE BEFORE ASSEMBLY AGAIN APRIL 27 AND ATIQUI IS EXPECTED TO REPLY TO MORE SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS FROM THE FLOOR AT THAT TIME.

3. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT INDICATIONS THAT OPPOSITION'S POSITION MAY BE WEAKER NOW THAN IT WAS A WEEK AGO. ONE INFLUENTIAL DEPUTY, BADR AL-AJEEL, HAS SWITCHED FROM OPPOSING THE AGREEMENT TO SUPPORTING IT, AND IT EXPECTED SOME OTHER DEPUTIES WILL JOIN HIM. IN ADDITION, CHAIRMAN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS COMMITTEE ABD AL-MUTTALIB AL-KAZEMI, FOLLOWING ATIQUI'S PRESENTATION, INDICATED SOME MODERATION TOWARD GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE INSISTED ON ITS POSITION AS A MINIMUM POSITION FOR A SHORT NEGOTIATION WITH THE COMPANIES, AN AGREEMENT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE GOK AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG JOURNALISTS AT ASSEMBLY DURING SESSION WAS THAT AGREEMENT STILL HAD GOOD CHANCE OF PASSAGE.

4. COMMENT: NOT YET CLEAR HOW SUCCESSFUL ATIQUI WILL BE IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT, BUT SUPPORTERS OF PARTICIPATION WERE GRATIFIED TO SEE GOK, PARTICULARLY ATIQUI HIMSELF, TAKE INITIATIVE AT LAST AND VIGOROUSLY DEFEND AGREEMENT IN ASSEMBLY. FYI PRESS REPORTS COMPANY NEGOTIATORS CURRENTLY IN KUWAIT MEETING WITH GOK ON BUY-BACK PRICE ISSUE, WHICH IS ONE OF THORNIEST POINTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GOK AND OPPOSITION DEPUTIES. END FYI
STOLTZFUS

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